Wheat procurement target

†459. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the target for public procurement of wheat under rabi crops for the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details of the target thereof and the names of States of the country for which such target have been fixed alongwith quantity of wheat to be procured from such States;

(c) the number of procurement centres established in each State for achieving the said target of such procurement;

(d) the number of extra procurement centres established this year in each State; and

(e) the additional measures taken to do away with the causes for not meeting the target of procurement during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price(MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on the estimates given by the State Food Secretaries on 12.02.2007 during the meeting held to review arrangements for procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08, the estimated procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 is 151.5 lakh tonnes. The State-wise details are at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Since RMS 2007-08 will commence only after 14th March, 2007, the procurement centres have not yet started working in these wheat procuring States. However, in the meeting held on 12.2.2007, the State Food Secretaries and Food Corporation of India assured that sufficient number of procurement centres would be opened in all districts in the States where there is marketable surplus of wheat.

(e) The additional measures taken by the Government to ensure adequate procurement in RMS 2007-08 are at Statement II.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Estimates of procurement of wheat indicated by food secretaries in RMS 2007-08

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Estimated Procurement in RMS 2007-08
Punjab	75
Haryana	45
Uttar Pradesh	15
Bihar	10
Madhya Pradesh	3
Rajasthan	2
Uttarakhand	1
Gujarat	0.5
Others*	Neg.
TOTAL:	151.5

*Others includes Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Jharkhand.

Statement-II

Additional measures taken by the Government to ensure adequate procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08.

(a) The Minimum Support Price of wheat announced for RMS 2007-08 is Rs. 750 per quintal which is Rs. 100 per qtl. more than that announced for RMS 2006-07.

(b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has announced that according to Second Advance Estimates released on 5.2.2007, the estimated production of wheat is 72.5 million tonnes in crop year 2006-07 compared to 69.35 million tonnes in crop year 2005-06.

(c) Import of wheat of 55 lakh tonnes was done in 2006-07 which has improved the stock position of wheat in the central pool; and so the wheat stocks will be more than the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes at the start of the next procurement season.

(d) A Committee of Officers/Experts was formed to examine various strategic options and recommend an appropriate procurement strategy for RMS 2007-08 and their recommendations have been acted upon appropriately by the Government.

(e) Wheat exports have been banned upto 31.12.2007.

(f) 4 lakh tonnes of wheat has been released under OMSS to cool the market prices.

(g) The Government is keeping very close watch on domestic and international prices of wheat.

(h) During the Meeting held on 12.2.2007 with the Food Secretaries of wheat procuring States and officers of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), it has been confirmed that all advance arrangements for wheat procurement have been made for RMS 2007-08 both by State agencies as well as by FCI.

Procurements at MSP

†460. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of wheat, gram, barley and other foodgrains under rabi crops which have been purchased at Minimum Support Price during 2006-07;

(b) the quantity purchased and stored thereof at Minimum Support Price during 2005-06; and

(c) the reasons for shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The quantities of the rabi foodgrains — wheat, gram, barley and masoor procured by Government agencies in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2005-06 and 2006-07 at Minimum Support Price (MSP) are as follows:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.